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## Rocket-fuel additive found in drinking water wells

SAN BERNARDINO — A toxic chemical used to make rockets and explosives was found in drinking water wells of three San Bernardino County communities this month, officials said.

At high levels, perchlorate can cause skin rashes and stomach problems. In extreme doses, it can cause a fatal blood disorder, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Wells in Rialto, Colton and Rancho Cucamonga tested positive for perchlorate this month, officials said Wednesday. The cities were informed of test results this week.

The worst case was in Rialto,

where test results showed perchlorate at 30 parts per billion in a well, above the California's interim limit of 18 parts per billion, said city public utilities director Richard Wellington.

One drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool is about one part per billion.

Wellington insists no residents drank water with dangerous levels of perchlorate because the contaminated well mixed its water with two clean wells before being distributed.

"We want to assure all of our customers that water quality is of the utmost concern," he said.

— Associated Press